



BALTIC SEA REGION UNIVERSITY NETWORK

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Draft Minutes

Date: Thursday, 12 September 2013 at 12.00-15.00

Place: University of Latvia, Riga (main building), room 240

Members

Kari Hyppönen President Chairman
Janis Stonis Vice-President, Vice-Chairman
~~Eliisa Sarkilahti University of Turku~~
~~Aleksas Pikturna Vilnius University~~
~~Agata Luniewska Gdansk University of Technology~~
~~Elzbieta Fonberg-Stokluska Warsaw School of Economics~~
~~Virve Anneli Vihman University of Tartu~~
~~Regina Karvelienė Šiauliai University~~
~~Irina Ledchenkova Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno~~
~~Stanislav Tkachenko St. Petersburg State University~~

~~Igor Zhoukovski Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University~~

Secretariat

Alina Grzhibovska
Ieva Grase

Substitutes

~~Uldis Sukevskis Riga Technical University~~
~~Markku Sutinon University of Turku~~
~~Arūnas Komka Vilnius Gediminas Technical University~~
Jerzy Jaroszewski University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn
~~Alejozy Nowak University of Warsaw~~
~~Aira Lepik Tallinn University~~
~~Sigitas Stanys Kaunas University of Technology~~
~~Zoya Scheglova Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno~~
Dmitry Vasilenko St. Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance
~~Elvira Kaminskaya Yaroslav the Wise Novgorod State University~~

SC members and substitutes contact information: <http://www.bsrn.org/organisation/steering/>

Invited:

Aila Grönholm University of Turku replaced Eliisa Sarkilahti
~~Katsiaryna Barysevich Grodno State Agrarian University~~
Ivan Grigoryev St. Petersburg State University

1. Opening of the meeting

Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of the agenda

BSRUN event - Seminar on cooperation in PhD programmes was taken as a separate item (item 9 – PhD programmes)

Agenda circulated to SC on 4 September 2013 was adopted.

3. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

Draft minutes of the SC meeting held in Riga on 21 March 2013 and circulated on 17 May 2013 were approved – **Annex 1**

4. Announcements

- Chairman's information (meetings and visits):
 - St. Petersburg, Russia 3 April 2013 (CBSS/CSO meeting)
 - Pskov, Russia 16 April 2013 (EuroFaculty meeting)
 - Olsztyn, Poland 30-31 May 2013 (Annual BSRUN Forum)
 - Kaliningrad, Russia 4 June 2013 (CBSS/CSO meeting)
 - Kaliningrad, Russia 7-8 June 2013 (CBSS SEBA Project meeting)
 - Pärnu, Estonia 25-27 August 2013 (22nd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference)
 - Rotterdam, The Netherlands 28-31 August 2013 (EAIR Forum)

- SC composition

Plenary Meeting in Riga on 22 March decided to establish a new Steering Committee for 2014-2016 with only one member per country with his/her personal substitute.

PM approved the following institutional composition of SC (the first one in brackets is the member, the second one - substitute):

Belarus (Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno, Grodno State Agrarian University)

Estonia (University of Tartu, Tallinn University of Technology)

Finland (University of Turku, University of Eastern Finland)

Latvia (University of Latvia, Riga Technical University)

Lithuania (Vilnius University, Kaunas University of Technology)

Poland (Warsaw University, University of Warmia and Mazury)

Russia (St. Petersburg State University of Economics, Yaroslav-the-Wise State University of Novgorod)

The idea was to update the SC representation to vice-rector level, if the institutions agree, so that information would reach better the senior management of the institution in order to get the necessary feedback for the future.

The current SC already has vice-rectors from FINEC, Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University, Kaunas University of Technology, Warsaw University, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Vilnius University and Riga Technical University.

Prof. Jerzy Jaroszewski (*University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn*) promised to contact Warsaw University Vice-rector to discuss institutional composition from Poland (the member should come from the University of Warmia and Mazury and the substitute - from Warsaw University).

SC discussed the proposal that Belarusian State University should replace Grodno State Agrarian University as the membership situation has been changed since the Plenary Meeting.

Tallinn University of Technology no longer qualifies for the SC to be established for 2014-2016, unless it pays the membership fee.

Chairman promised to send an email to the Rector Prof. Andres Keevallik.

5. BSRUN events

- Plenary Meeting in Riga on 22 March 2013

Presentations and the final list of participants are available on <http://www.bsrunch.org/activities/archive/>

PM Business meeting Minutes are available on <http://www.bsrunch.org/organisation/meetings/>

Chairman informed about the event.

- Annual BSRUN Forum "Green University" at the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland on 30-31 May 2013

Presentations and the final list of participants are available on <http://www.bsrunch.org/activities/archive/>

Chairman informed about the event.

6. Membership situation

On 15 May 2013 BSRUN Secretariat received a letter of resignation from Tallinn University – **Annex 2**

On 20 June 2013 BSRUN Secretariat received a letter from Šauliai University with a request to suspend the membership for one year starting from 1 January 2014 – **Annex 3**

A letter from Vytautas Magnus University who suspended the membership in 2011 – **Annex 4**

- Belarusian State University application

BSU formally applied for BSRUN membership.

A letter from the Rector Prof. Sergey Ablameyko where he expresses the wish to join the network – **Annex 5**

According to BSRUN Rules and Regulations (25 February 2010 – 1 January 2014) para. 5.3. membership applications are first examined by the SC. The SC opinion is then circulated to member institutions in order to obtain their approval.

SC recommended Belarusian State University application for the approval.

Secretariat should send to the Rector the membership fee invoice for 2013.

7. Division of labour between FINEC and UWM

According to BSRUN Plenary Meeting decision (22 March 2013, Riga) University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn was appointed to be the legal representative and to coordinate the activities with St. Petersburg State University of Economics for three years from 1st January 2014.

PM in Riga decided that SC should propose to the members for their approval the necessary changes to the Rules and Regulations to facilitate the secretariat split between UWM and FINEC.

BSRUN Rules and Regulations (approved by PM on 22 March 2013) – **Annex 6**

SC decided not to propose any changes to the Rules and Regulations as there is only one legal representative - University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn.

SC agreed that the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn will draft a proposal (strategy – overall activities, development of the network etc.) and introduce it to SC.

Prof. Jerzy Jaroszewski (*University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn*) introduced the new web page project.

SC took note and discussed the project.

Mr. Dmitry Vasilenko informed about the possible sponsorship (e.g. Severstal, Gazprom) for BSRUN.

8. BSRUN budget

- BSRUN agreement para. 3.3.6. stipulates that SC decides annually on the use of the collected fees on the basis of the proposal and the report of expenditures by the coordinating institution (now the University of Latvia).

Budget for 2013 – **Annex 7**

SC agreed with the budget for 2013 and realisation till 8 months.

Membership fee for 2013

Since there were two major events during the spring term of 2013, the Secretariat started collecting the membership fees early in the year to cover the costs incurred. BSRUN membership fee invoices were sent out on 16 January 2013 with a payment deadline of 28 February 2013.

Those member institutions that have not made the payment by 3 September 2013:

- Grodno State Agrarian University
- St. Petersburg State University of Economics
- St. Petersburg State University

Mrs. Alina Grzhibovska informed about the situation with BSRUN membership fee payments.

Grodno State Agrarian University rector had promised to pay the membership fee for 2013.

Mr. Dmitry Vasilenko (*St. Petersburg State University of Economics*) promised to check the situation with St. Petersburg State University of Economics and St. Petersburg State University.

BSRUN Secretariat had issued a copy of invoice for St. Petersburg State University and during the meeting the copy was given to Dr. Ivan Grigoryev (*St. Petersburg State University*).

Mr. Dmitry Vasilenko asked to issue a new invoice of 2000 Euro for St. Petersburg State University of Economics and send it by post as soon as possible.

9. PhD programmes

- Seminar on cooperation in PhD programmes at the University of Latvia on 12 September 2013

Speakers:

Dr. Ivan Grigoryev (*Head of Department for Educational Programs, St. Petersburg State University*)
"Cooperation in PhD Programmes with BSRUN member institutions"

A letter from Rector Prof. Nikolay Kropachev (*St. Petersburg State University*) on cooperation in PhD programmes – **Annex 8**

Prof. Jerzy Jaroszewski (*Vice-Rector for Research and Regional Cooperation, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn*) „Joint BSRUN PhD Programme”

UWM initiative:

The University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn can offer third degree studies (doctoral studies) in three main areas:

BIOSCIENCES – in the field of research – biological sciences (biology), agricultural sciences (agronomy, agricultural engineering, animal sciences, management and protection of the agricultural environment, fisheries, food technology and human nutrition), veterinary sciences (veterinary medicine)

SOCIAL SCIENCES - in the field of research – humanities (history, pedagogy, political sciences)

TECHNICAL SCIENCES - in the field of research – technical sciences (geodesy and cartography)

Third degree studies – doctoral studies are conducted for 8 semesters.

International Doctoral programme – **Annex 9**

Dr. Ivan Grigoryev (*St. Petersburg State University*) and Prof. Jerzy Jaroszewski (*University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn*) introduced their proposals.

Detailed and more comprehensive information will be presented during the seminar.

10. BSRUN future activities

➤ Joint events:

- EMA2 and BSRUN joint event in St. Petersburg on 3 October 2013
- BSRUN and CBSS joint event "University Cooperation in the Baltic Sea region" in Turku on 28 October 2013

Participation is by invitation only. The University of Turku has applied together with FINEC and UWM for funding from CBSS for the event and a study on the future of EuroFaculties.

Chairman informed about the joint events.

➤ Future Annual BSRUN Forums

- Annual BSRUN Forum in St. Petersburg in spring 2014

Event could be organized in April or May 2014.

SC agreed that Mr. Dmitry Vasilenko will inform about the exact date.

➤ Cooperation with other organizations:

- NUAS
- EAIR
- IMHE
- ESMU
- HUMANE

➤ Events for Administrators, Finance and HR directors

SC discussed future activities and marketing of BSRUN.

Still open was the question: do we continue with the events for Administrators, Finance and HR directors? Language problems in Finance and HR departments could be the reason of low activity.

Not only seminars and meetings could be organized in the future, but also different exchange of experience e.g. small group excursions.

11. Date of the next meeting

At the previous SC meeting on 21 March 2013 in Riga it was decided that SC will meet, on an average, three times per year.

SC was invited to discuss the possible date of the next meeting.

New SC will meet in Olsztyn in the middle of January.

12. Any other business

3rd International Scientific Conference of the Humanities "World Languages. Language and Cultural Identity in the Modern World" will take place at Pskov State University on 18-19 December 2013 and will be dedicated to the 50th Anniversary of the Faculty of Foreign Languages.

SC agreed that BSRUN Secretariat will send the conference invitation and the registration form to the members.

13. Closing of the meeting

Chairman closed the meeting at 15 and thanked SC for their contribution.